

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 NEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00

SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 MCT-01 USSS-00

ACDA-07 SAM-01 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-02 OES-06 HEW-04 MED-02

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O P 131410Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1753

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 095

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7419

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

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SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEP 12-13

REF: BEIRUT 7395

1. SUMMARY: CONFUSION PREVAILS ON WHETHER ABU IYAD ATTENDED SEP 11 MEETING WITH SYRIANS AT SOFAR, WHICH APPARENTLY WENT BADLY. KARAME AND SALAM MAKE DAMASCUS PILGRIMAGE. PIERRE GEMAYEL, SALAM, GRAND MUFTI AND PERHAPS KARAME DUE IN CAIRO THIS WEEK. SPEAKER OF HOUSE SAYS SARKIS TO BE SWORN IN IN BEIRUT. JUNBLATT OPPOSES "TRADITIONAL PERSONALITY" FOR SARKIS PM, AS SALAM JUNBLATT VERBAL BATTLE CONTINUES. ALL FRONTS FAIRLY QUIET DESPITE CONTINUING SPORADIC BOMBARDMENTS IN MOST AREAS. LAA/LEFTIST CLASHES CONTINUE. "CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS FRONT" ADOPTS CHARTER. ICRC DENIES CHOLERA IN TRIPOLI. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN MEETING. CONFUSION ON WHO PRESENT AT UNEXPECTED SEP 11-12 PLO-SYRIAN MEETINGS IN SOFAR. FATAH NUMBER TWO ABU IYAD NOW DENIES HE MET SEP 11 WITH SYRIAN LEADERS. DENIAL MAY ONLY INDICATE DISDAIN FOR LEVEL OF SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES. AN NAHAR AND AL MUHARRIR INTERPRET DENIAL AS SIGN, NOT THAT NO MEETING TOOK PLACE, BUT THAT RESULTS WERE UNSATISFACTORY TO ABU IYAD. AN NAHAR SAYS SYRIANS REFUSED DISCUSS QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL AND CONTINUE INSIST ON BALANCING ANY JUNBLATTI REPRESENTATION ON CEASE-FIRE COMMITTEE WITH PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE LEFTISTS (SEE PARA 3). SYRIANS INSIST ABU IYAD WAS THERE AS WELL AS SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES ABDEL-KARIM ADI, VICE MINISTER FOR DEFENSE NAJI JAMIL, AND PALESTINIAN ENVOYS ABU MAHER AND ABU MAZEN WHO HAVE SHUTTLED BETWEEN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS FOR PAST WEEK. DISCUSSIONS SAID TO HAVE CENTERED ON REOPENING DIALOGUE AND REACTIVATING LATE JULY SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN ACCORD. IN SEP 12 BEIRUT SPEECH TO GATHERING OF PLO LEADERS, ABU IYAD RENEWED ATTACK ON SYRIANS FOR "PLOT" AGAINST PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT. HE SAID PALESTINIANS ARE PREPARED TO HAVE DIALOGUE WITH SYRIA BUT NOT TO BECOME SLAVES OF SYRIA OVER LEBANESE ISSUE. ABU IYAD ADDED PALESTINIANS DETERMINED TO HELP SARKIS, REPRESENTING "LEGAL LEBANON," IN HIS EFFORTS TO RESTORE

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PEACE. DESPITE HARSH ABU IYAD TONE, RUMORS OF POSSIBLE ARAFAT MEETING WITH SYRIANS PERSIST, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THIS NOT IN CARDS FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

3. DAMASCUS VISITS. PM KARAME CONFERRED IN DAMASCUS SEP 12 WITH ASSAD, AND SAID "LEBANON HAS CONFIDENCE IN SYRIA" BUT ADDED "ALL THE ARABS" HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS. BEFORE LEAVING LEBANON,

KARAME CONSULTED WITH LEADERS OF NATIONAL UNITY FRONT AND SUPREME ISLAMIC COUNCIL. CHAFIC WAZZAN, SPOKESMAN FOR SEP 11 SUPREME ISLAMIC COUNCIL DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS, TELLS PRESS HE CONFIDENT SOLUTION TO HALT FIGHTING CAN BE FOUND IN NEXT FEW DAYS. SAEB SALEM WHO IN PAST MONTH HAS MUTED HIS ANTI-SYRIAN PRONOUNCEMENTS, DUE IN DAMASCUS SEP 13 FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH ASSAD. DANY CHAMOUN AND MAROUN HELOU OF NLP EXPECTED IN DAMASCUS SEP 14. AS SAFIR SAYS SYRIANS INSISTING TO AL DEPUTY KHOLY, AND TO TUNISIAN AND BAHRANINI FONMINS THAT CEASE-FIRE COMMITTEE UNDER JULY 29 AGREEMENT MUST INCLUDE BOTH THE PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE LEFTIST "NATIONAL FRONT" AND JUNBLATT'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT, OR NEITHER. SYRIANS SAID TO WANT KHOLY ON COMMITTEE AND TO BE INDIFFERENT TO PARTICIPATION OF ISLAMIC GROUP. AS SAFIR SAYS SYRIANS THREATEN MILITARY ACTION BEFORE SEP 23 IF PALESTINIANS DO NO ACCEPT SYRIAN MINIMAL TERMS.

4. CAIRO VISITS. PIERRE GEMAYEL, DUE IN CAIRO SEP 14, EXPECTED TO SEE SADAT AND FAHMY. HE SAYS HE WILL DISCUSS LEBANESE SITUATION "IN ALL SINCERITY AND HONESTY." HE SAYS LEBANESE CRISIS HAS BEEN "DEFORMED BY INTELLECTUAL TERRORISM AND LIES." GEMAYEL ALSO CRITICIZED USG SPECTATOR ROLE. ALSO DUE IN CAIRO THIS WEEK ARE SAEB SALAM, THE GRAND MUFTI AND PERHAPS KARAME.

5. SARKIS INAUGURATION. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE KAMEL ASSAD DENIES REPORTS SARKIS SWEARING IN WILL TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE BEIRUT, SAYING INAUGURATION WILL OCCUR IN BEIRUT "AT TIME ORIGINALLY SET." PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE DUE TO MEET SEP 14.
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6. JUNBLATT. IN MONDAY MORNING INTERVIEW KAMAL JUNBLATT SAYS HE OPPOSES A "TRADITIONAL PERSONALITY" AS PRIME MINISTER UNDER SARKIS, ADDING ONLY NATIONAL MOVEMENT CAN CHOOSE A PM CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT REFORMS ENDORSED BY LEFT. STATEMENT SEEN AS PART OF JUNBLATT'S ANTI-SAEB SALAM CAMPAIGN. MUSLIM MODERATE SALAM, HIMSELF A FORMER AND POTENTIAL PM, SAYS JUNBLATT HAS LAUNCHED "CAMPAIGN OF DEFAMATION AGAINST MUSLIM PERSONALITIES AND ESPECIALLY FORMER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT." HE SAYS JUNBLATT WANTS TO FIGHT TO LAST MUSLIM AND THAT PALESTINIANS NOW FEEL HE WANTS TO FIGHT TO LAST PALESTINIAN AS WELL.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 NEAE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 OMB-01 OC-06 CCO-00

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ACDA-07 SAM-01 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-02 OES-06 HEW-04 MED-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1754

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 096

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 7419

7. GROUND SITUATION. MILITARY FRONTS GENERALLY QUIET
THROUGHOUT COUNTRY DESPITE INTERMITTENT BUT INTENSE
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BOMBARDMENTS IN TRIPOLI AND SURROUNDING AREA, IN THE METN, AT JEZZINE/ROUM AND IN SOUTHEAST SUBURBS OF BEIRUT. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS APPARENTLY ORIGINATING IN CAIRO, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF JORDANIAN TANKS OR TROOPS IN LEBANON. ONLY BATTLE REPORTED AT GALERIE SEMAAN CROSSROADS, BUT DESPITE SEVERAL HOURS FIGHTING RESULTED IN NO CHANGES IN GROUND POSITIONS. BEIRUT OTHERWISE FAIRLY QUIET DESPITE LIMITED SHELLING AND SNIPING ALONG SOME PARTS CONFRONTATION LINE. AL FORCES ANNOUNCES REOPENING OF MUSEUM CROSSPOINT, THANKING MOURABITOUN AND NLP FOR COOPERATION AND REAFFIRMING THAT "AL PEACE FORCE IS NEUTRAL."

8. LAA/LEFTIST CLASHES. PAST FEW DAYS HAVE SEEN SEVERAL SMALL-SCALE CLASHES IN BEIRUT BETWEEN LAA AND LEFTIST GROUPS. CLASH IN BASTA, CHIYAH AND KHANDAR SEP 11-12 BETWEEN LAA ELEMENTS AND MEMBERS OF PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY, LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND COMMUNIST ACTION ORGANIZATION, WITH SOME KILLED AND WOUNDED ON BOTH SIDES. AL MUHARRIR REPORTS RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE OF LAA, LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS AND PLO REPRESENTATIVES AGREED ON STEPS TO END FIGHTING INCLUDING TEMPORARY CLOSING OF LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS' OFFICES, ELIMINATION OF BARRICADES AND RELEASE OF DETAINED PERSONS BY BOTH SIDES. CLASHES APPEAR TO BE MORE THAN FLAREUPS BETWEEN TOUCHY MEMBERS OF HEAVILY ARMED ORGANIZATIONS AND MAY REFLECT EVOLUTION IN LAA POLITICAL ORIENTATION TIED TO: 1) FALLING OUT BETWEEN LT. AHMAD KHATIB AND JUNBLATT; 2) RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN LT. KHATIB AND MUSLIM TRADITIONALISTS; 3) PROBLEMS BETWEEN LT. KHATIB AND THE PALESTINIANS.

9. CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS FRONT. NEWLY FORMED LEFTIST "CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS FRONT" MEETING AT JIYEH HAS ADOPTED CHARTER CALLING FOR TOTAL SECULARIZATION OF LEBANESE SYSTEM, FIGHT AGAINST PARTITION AND RESISTANCE TO SYRIAN OCCUPATION. FRONT SAYS IT PLANS TO INSTITUTE FOREIGN OFFICE AND OPEN BRANCHES IN CYPRUS AND UNSPECIFIED EUROPEAN CAPITALS. MESSAGE OF SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM PDFLP, MOURABITOUN AND ARAB SOCIALIST

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UNION.

10. NO CHOLERA IN TRIPOLI. ICRC MEDICAL MISSION

ISSUES PRELIMINARY REPORT THAT TRIPOLI HAS NO CHOLERA,
BUT RATHER EPIDEMIC OF GASTRO-ENTERITIS BROUGHT ON BY
DEPLORABLE HYGIENIC CONDITIONS. INVESTIGATION
CONTINUES AND PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN
MOUNTED. L'ORIENT LE JOUR SAYS SYRIAN/RIGHTIST
BLOCKADE OF TRIPOLI HAS REDUCED AVAILABLE FOOD
SUPPLIES TO BELOW ADEQUATE LEVELS.
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